

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2016



The Call of Lent

The Church's message to us during the Holy Season of Lent is to encourage us on our own personal journeys toward a deeper and richer relationship with God the Father who created us, God the Son who redeemed us, and the God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us. That's why the Church urges us to fast, to pray and to give alms as important ways of expressing our desire to become better and holier people. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1434)

FASTING – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence for all Catholics between 18 and 59, who are limited to one full meal. All Lenten Fridays are days of abstinence from meat for all who have reached the age of 14.

Without endangering your health, why not consider fasting from favorite foods and beverages? How about fasting or abstaining from unhealthy conversation, unsavory TV programs, books, and magazines, Internet material, excessive computer time? Sacrifice a visit to a favorite restaurant and instead, give the money to a needy cause. The idea is to fast and / or abstain from things which do not make us better and holier people as well as to fast and abstain from people who are not good influences in our lives.

PRAYER – Remember, the greatest prayer we have is the Mass. Daily Mass during Lent is possible for some but not for all. Why not try some time in private prayer in our Adoration Chapel? How about the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:30 P.M., or praying the Rosary at home? There's a lot of good spiritual reading out there.

ALMSGIVING - Giving to help the poor is a work of charity as well as justice. A donation to "Loaves and Fishes" will help to feed hungry men, women and children as does your support of our Diocesan Soup Kitchens through our monthly collection. Your support of our Facilities and Repairs fund has helped us to maintain our Parish buildings. Have you ever thought of volunteering some time to help at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, the Midnight Run or our Sister Parish, Saint Peter in Bridgeport?

May God bless us all with the graces of the Lenten Season, especially the grace of repentance of heart.

Msgr. Larry R. Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 8

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56

7:00 AM Robert Renfrow

12:00 PM Joseph Guenther

TUESDAY, February 9

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13

7:00 AM Edna and Ralph Johnson

12:00 PM Carey Depuy

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 10

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

7:00 AM Carey Depuy

9:00 AM Jim, Dick & Sam Gucci

12:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

7:30 PM Mary Rowella

THURSDAY, February 11

Dt 30: 15-20; Lk 9:22-25

7:00 AM Mary Culhane-15th Anniversary

12:00 PM Cathryn V. Depuy

FRIDAY, February 12

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

7:00 AM Ryan Adams

12:00 PM Carey Depuy

SATURDAY, February 13

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

8:00 AM Andrew J. Brown, Jr.

4:00 PM Francis Ryan

5:30 PM Ferenc Kiss

SUNDAY, February 14

Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

CHURCH

7:00 AM Mary and Conrad Sponberg

9:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

11:15 AM Theodore M. Cooke

HALL

8:00 AM Ryan Adams

10:30 AM Joey Lucisano

12:00 PM William Novak

5:00 PM Robert Chapman



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

January 31, 2016	\$26,494	\$119,016
February 01, 2015	\$24,278	\$117,600

FROM THE PASTOR: "How do you express your love for God? Some of the ways of expressing love are by giving and by serving joyfully!"

CONTRIBUTION TAX STATEMENTS

2015 Contribution Tax Statements have been mailed this month to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish offertory this year. All contributions must have been received by December 31, 2015 to be acknowledged for 2015 contribution status.

BAPTISMS

We welcome to our Saint Mary Parish Family of God **Shannon Marie Duffy and Charlotte Rose Phelan**, who were baptized in our Church last weekend.



Please remember our sick in your prayers; especially, Joseph Barone, MaryJo Calamai, Patty Capilli and Margaret Mulligan.



(To respect individual privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless otherwise notified.)



On **ASH WEDNESDAY**, February 10, ashes will be distributed at the 7 AM, 9 AM, 12 Noon, and 7:30 PM Masses. There will also be a Liturgy of the Word and distribution of Ashes at 5 PM in our Church.

CONFESSIONS will be heard from 7:00-7:30 pm, as well as after **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (which will begin at 7:30 pm) each Friday evening in Lent in our Church.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

On May 12, 1982 Pope John Paul II arrived at Fatima to give thanks to Our Lady of Fatima for sparing his life from an attempted assassination on May 13, 1981. In his evening homily he said: "Pray, pray much. Say the rosary every day as our Lady had requested at Fatima." Continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus by inviting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue to your home-- a wonderful Marian devotion for your family. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.





SAINT MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be NO Religious Education classes on Sunday February 14, Monday February 15, & Tuesday February 16, in observance of President's Day Weekend.



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

National Geographic Geography Bee

All students in Grades 4-8 competed in a school wide Geography Bee sponsored by National Geographic. Congratulations to Grade 6 student Eric John Hoerdemann, who was the Saint Mary Winner, Grade 7 Avery Simoneau came in second place, and Grade 7 student Reggie Stuhr came in third place. Eric John will now take an assessment to see if he will move on to the Connecticut State Geography Bee.

We invite you to come take a closer look. Saint Mary School will be holding a Kindergarten – Grade 8 Open House on Thursday, February 11th from 9-10 am, and a Preschool Open House on Friday, February 12th from 9:30-10:30 am. Meet with other parents, speak with faculty and staff, and see classes in session. To register, for more information about SMS, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at 203-438-7288 or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

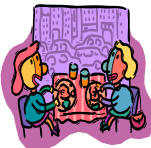


In early January, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting Little Sisters of the poor and other ministries challenging the HHS mandate. The brief claims that the government is violating federal law by speaking for the sisters in saying that the accommodation provided is the mandate is compatible with their religious beliefs.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

Come out of the cold and warm your heart with our 3rd grade SMS students at the next **Senior Citizen Luncheon on Tuesday, February 9th!** We will celebrate Valentine's Day with you! Please RSVP to the School's Office at 203-438-7288.



* If Saint Mary School is closed that day due to inclement weather the luncheon will be cancelled and not rescheduled.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

"Legal abortion has left a legacy of violence-to the lives of unborn children, to the souls of their mothers, to society at large. It is our great task, and our great privilege, to be called to bear witness to this truth." C.A. Cleaver, Director, Planning and Information, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more info, visit www.stmaryrespectlife.org

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness.

--Mother Teresa



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

CATHOLIC ACTION

DONATE: Food Pantries **On-going**

During the month of February all food collected will go to Ridgefield Food Pantry. The following are some suggested food items: Canned fruit, hearty soups (like Progresso), cereal, coffee, rice mixes (like Rice a Roni) canned tuna or Salmon, canned meats (chicken or spam), jelly but not grape. Please no green beans or pasta at this time.

VOLUNTEER: Congregate Housing **On-going**

1. Afternoon teas - One volunteer needed; 2nd Thurs, 3:30-4:30 - once every 3rd month. Responsibility - provide baked goods, serve and socialize.
 2. Bingo Calling - 1 or 2 volunteers needed; Wednesdays, 1-2:30 - once a month. Responsibility - set up, call numbers, collect/distribute cards etc.
 Contact: Suzanne MacAvoy for more information and/or details, at 203 438-7056, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com, if interested.

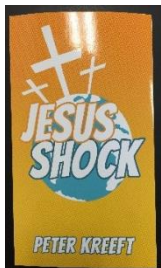
VOLUNTEER: Laurel Ridge **On-going**

Weekly Bingo volunteers needed at laurel Ridge to assist residents as they play Bingo; Tuesday or Saturday afternoon – 2:15 to 3:30pm. Please call Thora Perkins at 203 438 8226; Many thanks from our Volunteer Team!"

O= permanent or sub urgently needed. X=1 add is needed. Blank boxes=there are 2 or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	O	X	O
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X		X	X	X	X
5am-6am	X	X		X			X
6am-7am	X		X	X	X		X
7am-8am	X		X	X	X	X	
8am-9am			X		X		X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X	X			O	X
11am-12N	X		X	X	X		X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		O	X	O	X
2pm-3pm			X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X	X	X	X	X		X
5pm-6pm	X		X		X		X
6pm-7pm	O		X		X		X
7pm-8pm	X			X		X	X
8pm-9pm			X			X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X				X	X
10pm-11pm		X			X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X		X	X	X

With the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, please consider taking a much needed hour in your Adoration Chapel as an extra devotion for the Lenten season. Please call Bill or Monica @ (914)533-2832 to sign up for an hour. God bless us all.



"Jesus Shock" by Dr. Peter Kreeft was our Christmas gift to you. We hope you are enjoying it. To explore the ideas presented in the book in more depth, please join our casual book club for two **Monday evenings, February 8 and 29 in our Barn, next to our Church, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.** Attendance at all three sessions is not necessary. Please invite family and friends who may have attended Christmas Mass with you to come also. **Dr. Kreeft will be at St. Mary on Saturday, March 19 from 1:00-3:00 pm for discussion and Q&A.**

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9:00 pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary are sung and prayed. Please join us!

ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

To paraphrase Paul, one of our founders: *We come to MM to be fed in our faith. We come to build fellowship. We strive to be better fathers, friends and coworkers. We have each other's back in good times and in bad; and we always leave our egos at the door.* Come any Saturday@6:30 in the Hall and check it out for yourself. Go to Stmmm.org for more info.

MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Don't you want to be the best role model for your child? The easiest way is to share the faith with your children by spending time with them and "walking the talk." Connect the words to action! Join the Knights of Columbus for the opportunity to serve our church and community together WITH your children. **We are looking for Dads and their kids to help us throughout the year.** Contact Thad Belfanti at gk@kofc245.org or visit www.kofc245.org for more info.

DIVORCE & SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP

If you are divorced, in the process of divorcing, or separated, come join our friendly, safe, confidential and uplifting support group that focuses on spiritual and emotional healing. While this group is Catholic in practice and nature, persons of **all faiths are welcome**. The group will meet every second and fourth Sunday of each month, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM in the St. Mary Parish Barn (beige building next to the church). For more information contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com.